



Administrative Provisions to the Tempe Electrical Code

The administrative provisions of the Electrical Code are contained in Divisions 1 and 2 of Article IV, Chapter 8 of the Tempe City Code.

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY ⁽¹⁾

Sec. 8-400. Short Title. This article shall be known as the City of Tempe Electrical Code, and may be cited as such.

Sec. 8-401. Purpose. The purpose of this article is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, installation, quality of materials, location, operation, and maintenance or use of electrical systems and equipment within this jurisdiction.

The purpose of this code is not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected or benefited by the terms of this code.

Sec. 8-402. Application and Scope. The provisions of this article shall apply to the installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of electrical systems and equipment within this jurisdiction, except as otherwise provided in this article, including but not limited to:

(a) Installations of electrical conductors and equipment within or on public and private buildings or other structures, including mobile homes, recreational vehicles, and floating buildings; and other premises such as yards, carnival, parking and other lots, and industrial substations.

(b) Installations of conductors that connect to the supply of electricity.

(c) Installations of other outside conductors on the premises.

(d) Installations of optical fiber cable.

(e) Installations for the distribution and metering of electrical energy by a serving electrical supplier.

Sec. 8-403. Exemptions. The provisions of this article shall not apply to:

(a) Installations in watercraft other than floating buildings, railway rolling stock, aircraft or vehicles other than mobile homes and recreational vehicles. This section shall not exempt electrical installations contained in, on or attached to watercraft, railway rolling stock, aircraft or vehicles when such electrical installations receive energy from an external source of power.

(b) Installations underground in mines.

(c) Installation of transportation systems for generation, transformation, or distribution of power used exclusively for operation of rolling stock, or installations used exclusively for signaling and communications purposes.

(d) Installations of communication equipment under the exclusive control of communication utilities.

(e) Installations under the exclusive control of electric utilities for the purpose of communication, or metering; or for the generation, control, transformation, transmission and distribution of electrical energy.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt any electrical installation used for lighting, power, heating, ventilation, elevators, pumping or for other building or premise operations, nor to exempt any service equipment for electrical service to a building or premise.

Sec. 8-404. National Electrical Code Adopted; where filed; amendments.

This section adopts by reference, the 1996 Edition of the National Electrical Code, (NEC), with amendments (See Tempe Amendments to the National Electrical Code.) All provisions of the NEC, Chapters 1 through 8, and the amendments are part of this Code and shall be cited as **Sec. 8-404 [insert references to sections of NEC or NEC amendment] Tempe City Code.**

DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION ⁽¹⁾

Sec. 8-426. Uniform Administrative Code Provisions for the National Electrical Code adopted; where filed; amendments.

This section adopts by reference, the 1996 Edition of the Uniform Administrative Code Provisions for the National Electrical Code, (UAC), with amendments contained herein. All provisions of the UAC and the amendments are part of this Code and shall be cited as **Sec. 8-426 [insert references to sections of UAC or UAC amendment] Tempe City Code.**

The amendments contained herein shall take precedence over any conflicting requirements in the UAC. Identification is by corresponding UAC Chapter and Section number.

Sec. 8-426. Adopted; where filed; amendments. ^{(1) (5)}

(a) That certain document known as Uniform Administrative Code Provisions for the National Electrical Code, 1996 Edition which has been published as a code in book form by the International Conference of Building Officials, three (3) copies of which are on file in the office of the city clerk, and the same hereby referred to, adopted and made a part hereof, as if fully set out in this article, except as modified in this section.

(b) The provisions of this division, other than Section 8-427, subsection (a) of this section, this subsection and sections reserved at the end of this division, are amendments to the Uniform Administrative Code Provisions for the National Electrical Code as now or hereafter adopted in subsection (a). All sections, chapters, etc., in this division other than Section 8-427, subsection (a) of this section, this subsection and sections reserved at

the end of this division, shall be considered to be both a part of this code and a part of the Uniform Administrative Code Provisions for the National Electrical Code. Material encased in brackets ([.]) shall be considered to be a part of this code only, and not a part of the Uniform Administrative Code Provisions for the National Electrical Code. Numbers in () following the amendment indicate the ordinances and effective date of revisions which are listed on the last page. Except for the sections reserved at the end of this division, provisions in this division shall be cited as Section 8-427,

Sec. 102. Application to existing electrical systems and equipment.

[§ 102.1 is hereby amended as follows:]

102.1. Additions, alterations or repairs. Additions, alterations or repairs may be made to any electrical system and equipment without requiring the existing electrical system or equipment to comply with the requirements of this code, provided:

1. The addition, alteration or repair conforms to that required for a new electrical system and equipment.
2. No hazard to life, health or property will be created by such additions, alterations or repairs.
3. The addition or alteration does not overload the existing system or equipment.
4. Additions, alterations or repairs to an existing building or structure within any twelve (12) month period do not exceed fifty percent (50%) of the value of the building or structure.

When additions, alterations or repairs within any twelve (12) month period exceed fifty percent (50%) of the value of an existing building or structure, the electrical system and equipment shall be made to conform to the requirements for new electrical systems and equipment.

Sec. 103. Definitions.

[§ 103 is hereby amended by adding the definitions of approved, compliance, electrical utility, and Serving electrical supplier as follows:]

APPROVED is approval by the building official as the result of investigation and tests, or by reason of accepted principals or tests by recognized authorities, or compliance as defined in Section 404.

COMPLIANCE is conformance to the applicable requirements of this code and other pertinent laws and ordinances so far as ascertained by or made known to the building official by inspection or by review of plans, specifications and other data to the extent of the building official's resources. Plan review and inspection services are provided to help minimize instances of code violations. Responsibility for conformance of a building or structure is the responsibility of the owner and the owner's agents.

ELECTRIC UTILITY is a firm, corporation, or political subdivision, public or private, maintaining a distribution system used to supply electricity that has been granted a charter or franchise to operate from the approving authority.

SERVING ELECTRICAL SUPPLIER is any person, firm or corporation, other than an electric utility, maintaining a distribution system, designed, intended or used to supply electricity.

Sec. 201. Powers and duties of building official. ⁽³⁾

[§ 201.1 is hereby amended as follows:]

201.1. General. The building official is hereby authorized and directed to enforce all the provisions of this code. For such purposes the building official shall have the powers of a law enforcement officer.

The building official shall have the power to render interpretations of this code and to adopt and enforce rules and regulations supplemental to this code as may be deemed necessary in order to clarify the application of the provisions of this code. Such interpretations, rules and regulation shall be in conformity with the intent and purpose of this code.

[§201.5 is hereby amended as follows:]

201.5. Authority to disconnect. The building official shall have the authority to disconnect any electric power or energy service supplied to a building, structure, electric service or equipment regulated by this code where necessary to eliminate an immediate hazard to life, health or property, or to disconnect any electric service or equipment that in the judgement of the building official is dangerous to life or property.

[§201.6 is hereby amended as follows:]

201.6. Authority to condemn electrical system and equipment. Whenever the building official ascertains that any electrical system or equipment regulated by this code is unsafe, defective, improperly installed or otherwise does not comply with those codes, the building official shall order in writing that such system or equipment either be removed or restored to comply. The notice shall fix a time limit for compliance with such order, and such system or equipment shall not be used or maintained after expiration of the time fixed by said notice.

If the violations continue to exist by the expiration of the time fixed by the notice, the building official may order the electrical service and equipment to be disconnected by notice in writing to the electric utility or serving electrical supplier specifying the particulars in which the installation is in violation.

When any electrical system or equipment is maintained in violation of this code or in violation of any notice issued pursuant to the provisions of this section, the building official may institute any appropriate action to prevent, restrain, correct or abate the violation.

Sec. 203. Board of appeals.

[§ 203 is hereby repealed.]

Sec. 301. Permits.

[§ 301.1 is hereby amended as follows:]

301.1. Permits required. Except as specified in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, no electrical system regulated by this code shall be installed, altered, repaired, replaced or remodeled unless a separate electrical permit for each building or structure has first been obtained from the building official.

[§ 301.2 is hereby amended as follows:]

301.2 Exempt Work. An electrical permit shall not be required for the following:

1. Portable motors or other portable appliances energized by means of a cord or cable having an attachment plug end to be connected to an approved receptacle when that cord or cable is permitted by this code.
2. Repair or replacement of fixed motors, transformers or fixed approved appliances of the same type and rating in the same location.
3. Temporary decorative lighting.
4. Repair or replacement of current-carrying parts of any switch, contactor or control device.
5. Reinstallation of attachment plug receptacles, but not the outlets therefor.
6. Repair or replacement of any overcurrent device of the required capacity in the same location.
7. Repair or replacement of electrodes or transformers of the same size and capacity for signs or gas tube systems.
8. Taping joints.
9. Removal of electrical wiring.
10. Temporary wiring for experimental purposes in suitable experimental laboratories.
11. The wiring for temporary theater, motion picture or television stage sets.
12. Electrical wiring, devices, appliances, apparatus or equipment, not installed in hazardous locations, as defined in Article 500, operating at less than twenty-five (25) volts and not capable of supplying more than fifty (50) watts of energy.
13. Low-energy power, control and signal circuits of Classes II and III as defined in this code, not installed in hazardous locations, as defined in Article 500.
14. ⁽⁵⁾ An electrical permit is not required for lighting fixtures and conductors within or on a sign. Branch circuits required to serve a sign are not exempt from an electrical permit. Neon lighting that is directly attached to a building is not exempt from an electrical permit. (This does not include neon lighting that is part of a plug and cord connected self-contained sign or part of a pre-manufactured piece of sign equipment.)

15. ⁽⁵⁾ An electrical permit is not required for the installation of an approved temporary metered power outlet that has been supplied and installed by an electric utility.

(FPN:) a temporary metered power outlet is a device, designed to be installed in the electric utility meter socket, that provides metered electrical power to receptacles mounted on or in the device, for the purpose of providing temporary construction power to a residential building. Such devices may not energize the meter socket, lugs or equipment on the customer's side of the meter socket. The temporary metered power outlet shall be an approved device with an aic rating higher than the available fault current provided at the meter. Such devices may be installed on residential buildings when a valid building permit has been issued, provided that the structural integrity and weather resistive barrier is maintained at the panel location, or the installation is detailed on the approved building plans. This exemption from permitting does not prohibit or limit the authority having jurisdiction from directing the electrical utility to disconnect the temporary metered power outlet, if found to be unsafe or used for other than construction power.

Exception from the permit requirements of this code shall not be deemed to grant authorization for any work to be done in violation of the provisions of this code or any other laws or ordinances of this jurisdiction.

[§ 301 is hereby amended by adding subsection 301.3 as follows:]

301.3. Annual permits. Any person, firm or corporation employing a person who holds a valid maintenance electrician's certificate of registration may obtain an annual permit in lieu of separate electrical permits for additions, alterations, repair or maintenance of electrical systems or equipment on the premises owned or occupied by said person, firm or corporation.

A list of all additions and alterations not generally regarded as maintenance shall be prepared by the person who holds the maintenance electrician's certificate of registration, and submitted upon request of the building official.

[§ 301 is hereby amended by adding subsection 301.4 as follows:]

301.4. Temporary Permits. 1. Construction Service. Where electrical service is required for construction purposes, an electrical permit for the temporary service pole or pedestal may be issued subject to the conditions of Article 305 of the electrical code as adopted.

Prior to approval, the service shall include electrical wiring, meter equipment, overcurrent protection, weatherproof receptacles and a grounding system.

2. Temporary uses. Prior to the installation of electrical service, wiring or equipment for a temporary use, an electrical permit is required, and shall be subject to the conditions and limitations of Article 305 of the electrical code as adopted.

The use and time limit shall be specified on the application for permit. With approval of the building official, the time limit may be extended, but not to exceed ninety (90) days from the original date of the permit.

Sec. 302. Application for permit.

[§ 302.1 is hereby amended by adding an Exception as follows:]

EXCEPTION: The building official may waive the written application and signature where the nature of the work is such that the information necessary for a permit can otherwise be obtained.

Sec. 303. Permit issuance. ⁽³⁾

[§ 303.1 is hereby amended as follows:]

303.1. Issuance. The application, plans, specifications, computations and other data filed by an applicant for permit shall be reviewed by the building official. Such plans may be reviewed by other departments of this jurisdiction to verify compliance with all applicable laws under their jurisdiction. If the building official finds that the work described in an application for a permit and the plans, specifications and other data filed therewith are in compliance with the requirements of this code and other pertinent laws and ordinances, and that the fees specified in Section 304 have been paid, the building official shall issue a permit therefor to the applicant.

When the building official issues the permit, all plans, specifications and other data found to be in compliance with this code and other pertinent laws and ordinances shall be stamped or otherwise identified as APPROVED. Such approved plans and specifications shall not be changed, modified or altered without authorizations from the building official, and all work regulated by this code shall be done in accordance with the approved plans.

The building official may issue a permit for the construction of part of an electrical system before the entire plans and specifications for the whole system have been submitted or approved, provided adequate information and detailed statements have been filed complying with all pertinent requirements of this code. The holders of such permits shall proceed at their own risk without assurance that the permit for the entire building, structure or building service will be granted.

[§ 303.4 is hereby amended as follows:]

303.4. Expiration. 1. Work not commenced. Every permit issued under the provisions of this code shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance provided, however, that any permit shall expire if work authorized by such permit is not commenced and an approved inspection obtained within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of issuance. An approved inspection shall be an inspection that is requested pursuant to Section 305.

Before such work can be commenced, a new permit shall be obtained and the fee therefore shall be determined by the building official based on the total amount of the work and the fee for issuance of the permit.

EXCEPTION: Where no work has commenced within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date of issuance, the permit may be reinstated without a fee upon written request of the owner or owner's agent provided work commences and an approved inspection is obtained within one year of the original date of issuance.

2. Work commenced. Every permit issued under the provisions of this code shall be valid for a period of one year from the date of issuance provided however, that any permit shall expire one hundred eighty (180) days after the last approved inspection. An approved inspection shall be an inspection that is requested and approved pursuant to Section 305.

Before such work can be continued or resumed on a structure, a new permit shall be obtained and the fee therefore shall be determined by the building official based on the uncompleted portion of the work and the fee for issuance.

EXCEPTIONS: 1. A permit shall not expire if the time between approved inspections does not exceed one hundred eighty (180) days.

2. If an approved inspection is not obtained within one hundred eighty (180) days of the last approved inspection, the permit may be reinstated once without a fee upon written request of the owner or owner's agent provided that no substantial changes have been made from the original plans and specifications for such work and provided further that an approved inspection is obtained within one (1) year of the last approved inspection.

3. Electrical permits issued on the same date as, and authorizing work associated with, a building permit shall have the same expiration date as that building permit. Electrical permits meeting this criteria will be considered valid as long as the building permit is valid and will be automatically renewed when the fees for building permit renewal are paid. All other electrical permits will expire in accordance with this section.

[§ 303 is hereby amended by adding subsection 303.6 as follows:]

303.6. Extent of work. No electrical work other than that described on the permit shall be done without first obtaining an additional permit as required in this section.

Sec. 304. Fees. .⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾

[§ 304.1 is hereby amended as follows:]

304.1. Permit fees. The fee for each electrical permit shall be as set forth in Table No. 3-A – Electrical Permit Fees. (See Tempe City Code Appendix).

ELECTRICAL PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE

FOR ISSUING EACH PERMIT\$ 10.00

IN ADDITION, FOR:

Each service entrance	0 - 200 amps	7.00
	201 - 1000 amps	11.00
	Over 1000 amps	22.00
Each branch circuit or feeder		4.50
Addition to branch circuit or feeder.....		4.50
Construction service.....		7.00
Temporary Use		15.00
Annual permit.....		112.50

[§ 304.2. is hereby repealed.]

[§ 304.4 is hereby amended by adding subsection 304.4.3 as follows:]

304.4.3. Emergency. ⁽³⁾ An investigation fee shall not apply to emergency work as determined by the building official provided a permit for such work is obtained forthwith. The investigation fee shall be charged if the permit is not obtained on the next day that permits are available following commencement of the work.

[§ 304.5 is hereby amended as follows:]

304.5. Fee refunds. ⁽⁵⁾ The building official may authorize the refunding of that portion of the permit fee in excess of the fee for issuance when no work has been done for which the permit is required. The building official may authorize the refunding of any fee which was erroneously paid or collected, including permit issuance fees.

The building official shall not authorize the refunding of any fee paid except upon written application filed by the original permittee not later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the date of fee payment.

[§ 304 is hereby amended by adding subsection 304.6 as follows:]

304.6. Charge accounts and bonds. Any person, firm, corporation or political subdivision may elect to pay permit and inspection fees on a monthly charge account basis, provided he has first filed with the building official a bond for the benefit of the city in the sum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The bond shall be executed by said person, firm, corporation or political subdivision and by a surety company maintaining an agency in the state or, in lieu thereof, the bond shall be in writing on a form to be provided by the city and accomplished by a deposit of cash in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). All bonds shall be conditioned that the person named herein shall pay, within forty-five (45) days of issuance of any electrical permit, all permit and inspection fees accrued under Section 304.1. Said bond shall be nontransferable.

[§ 304 is hereby amended by adding subsection 304.7 as follows:]

304.7. Payment. Permit and inspection fee charges accrued during each month shall be promptly remitted to the city after issuance of the permit, or as often during the month as the accrued charges equal the value of the bond or cash deposit. If any person, firm, corporation or political subdivision fails or refuses to pay such accrued permit and inspection fees by the fifteenth day of the following month after issuance of the permit the building official may refuse any further electrical permits and may refuse to inspect any work for which permit fees have not been paid.

Sec. 305. Inspections.

[§ 305.3 is hereby amended as follows:]

305.3. Required inspections. The building official shall make the following inspections and shall either approve that portion of the work as completed or shall notify the permit holder or his agent where the work fails to comply with this code:

1. Underground or under-floor inspections. To be made after underground, under-floor or in-slab electrical systems and equipment is in place, but before any backfilling, concrete or floor sheathing is installed, including the sub-floor.

2. Rough Electrical. To be made after cable, conduit, or raceway is in place, and conductors and boxes have been installed, but before fixtures are installed.

3. Final. To be made after all fixtures and drop cords, service equipment, switches, panels, cabinets, receptacles, cutouts, breakers and fuses are installed; all conductors are connected and all unused outlets are equipped with blank covers.

Sec. 307. Maintenance electrician. ⁽²⁾⁽⁵⁾

[§ 307 is hereby added as follows:]

307.1. Maintenance electrician, defined. For the purpose of this code, a maintenance electrician is a person who performs or supervises alteration, repair or maintenance of electrical systems and equipment in, or about, buildings, structures or premises and holds a valid maintenance electrician's certificate of registration issued by the city.

307.2. Maintenance electrician's certificate of registration. Persons may obtain a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration as follows:

1. Any employer may elect to appoint one or more full-time maintenance electricians to perform or supervise the alteration, repair or maintenance of electrical wiring and equipment in or about buildings, structures or premises owned or occupied by the employer.

2. Every person desiring to hold or renew a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall make application with the building official on a form furnished by the city for that purpose.

3. Every person applying for a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall pay to the city a fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25) at the time of application. No portion of any fee shall be returned either upon failure to qualify, or upon revocation of certification, or for any other cause.

4. Every person applying for a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall undergo such examination as to qualifications and competency to alter, repair or maintain electrical systems and equipment as the building official shall direct; provided, however, that the examination shall relate exclusively to the trade or vocation of electrical wiring.

Every person applying for the renewal of a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall undergo such examination as to verify the applicants' qualifications and competency relative to the Tempe electrical code provisions as adopted at the time of application. The renewal exam will be administered as an open book exam whereby the exam will be sent to the applicant along with the annual renewal form and a copy of Tempe's electrical

code amendments. A grade of at least seventy-five percent (75%) is required to qualify for registration renewal. Renewal applicants whose initial exam was based on the current electrical code edition need not complete the renewal exam.

5. Every applicant shall have an examination grade or standing of at least seventy-five percent (75%) in order to be entitled to a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration. The building official shall, within five (5) days after the grades have been determined, notify each applicant of the grade and whether or not they passed the examination.

6. Any person who fails to pass an examination for a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration may apply for re-examination after the expiration of thirty (30) days without payment of additional fees. Should such person fail to pass an examination the second time, the building official shall refuse a third application until after the expiration of six (6) months. After six (6) months, such person is permitted to reapply and shall pay the regular examination fee.

7. A maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall be issued to every person who makes application for such certificate, pays the required fee, and successfully passes the examination. It is further provided that a maintenance electrician need not hold an electrical contractor's license issued by the state.

8. Any maintenance electrician's certificate of registration issued hereunder shall be subject to suspension or revocation by the building official for failure to alter, repair or maintain electrical wiring or equipment in compliance with the electrical code.

9. Unless earlier suspended or revoked for cause, all maintenance electrician's certificates or registration issued by the city shall expire on March 1 of each year and may be renewed for the following year upon receipt of application and the payment of a fee of twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12.50) to the city on or before March 1 of each year.

Applications for renewal must include completed renewal exams as specified in Item #4.

10. A maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall become void in the event that said maintenance electrician holding such certificate shall cease to act as the maintenance electrician for the employer specified in the application for such certificate.

11. No person holding a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall be employed as a maintenance electrician by more than one employer at any one time. Any person holding a maintenance electrician's certificate of registration shall notify building official within five (5) days of the termination of employment with the employer specified in the application for such certificate.

12. Certificates of registration are not transferable from one person to another, and the lending of any certificate of registration or obtaining of permits thereunder for any other person shall be deemed cause for revocation of same.

Sec. 307.3. Appeal.

307.3. Appeal. Any person who is denied a certificate of registration and wishes to obtain a review of the determination made by the building official shall, within ten (10) days after notification of denial of a certificate of registration, file an application for hearing before the electrical code advisory board of appeals with the secretary of the board stating the reasons for said appeal. It shall be the duty of the secretary to notify the chairman of the board of the appeal.

The applicant shall be notified to appear and meet with the board for a hearing on said appeal at such time and place as the board shall direct but not more than twenty-five (25) days after the application for rehearing is filed. If the board reaffirms the denial of a certificate of registration, the applicant shall be notified of said denial within five (5) days following the date of rehearing.

The board shall have the authority to restrict, revoke or temporarily suspend any maintenance electrician's certificate of registration granted hereunder for good cause shown for any of the following reasons:

- (1) If a certificate of registration was obtained by fraud or misrepresentation.
- (2) If any reason exists which would have been cause for denial of such certificate of registration.
- (3) For negligently or wilfully violating the provisions of this article or for refusal to correct such violations.
- (4) For repeated violations of this article.
- (5) For permitting any other person to use such certificate of registration or to perform any act or work of the kind authorized by such certificate for the purpose of avoiding compliance with this article.

The action to restrict, revoke or temporarily suspend any certificate of registration may be commenced upon request of the building official, or upon motion and presentation of cause by any member of the board.

Before any certificate of registration is restricted, revoked or temporarily suspended, the board shall hold a hearing and give the holder of such certificate a fair and reasonable opportunity to present reasons and evidence against the restrictions, suspensions or revocation.

Any person whose certificate of registration is restricted, suspended or revoked shall be notified of such action by registered mail and shall have appeal rights in accordance with the provisions of Section 8-242.

REFERENCES

- (1) Unless otherwise footnoted, DIVISION 1. GENERALLY and DIVISION 2. ADMINISTRATION, were adopted by:
Ordinance 88.57 - Effective 10-10-88
- (2) Ordinance 89.46 - Effective 9-9-89
- (3) Ordinance 91.17 - Effective 6-8-91
- (4) Ordinance 91.21 - Effective 1-27-92
- (5) Ordinance 93.18 - Effective 7-24-93
- (6) Ordinance 99.08 - Effective 08-22-99